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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES APPOINTMENT OF JESSE RUIZ
TO CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT BOARD**

City Council today approved the appointment of Jesse Ruiz to the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Park District. Ruiz will replace Dr. Bryan Traubert, who has led the board since 2010 and is stepping down at the end of the year.

"Jesse and Bryan are both committed public servants who have worked tirelessly to improve Chicago's schools and parks," said Mayor Emanuel. "Jesse's leadership is ideal to build on the incredible progress made during Bryan's tenure. Jesse is the perfect choice to lead the Park District Board as it moves forward under the long-term plan for our parks that I will outline later this year."

Ruiz has served as Vice President of the Chicago Board of Education since May of 2011, and in 2015 he served as Interim CEO of Chicago Public Schools. Since 2011 and with the support of the Chicago Board of Education, CPS has made investments in key programs that are proven to help prepare students for high school graduation and the rigors of 21st century college coursework. By placing a focus on the expansion of demanding, rigorous coursework through IB, STEM, AP and dual-credit programs, the District has elevated expectations in order to better prepare students for the ACT and other college readiness benchmarks. Ruiz has also recently served on the U.S. Department of Education Equity and Excellence Commission. Previously he served as Chairman of the Illinois State Board of Education from September 2004 to May 2011.

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